

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church
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Monsignor Lawrence A. Dominik, Celebrant

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021
THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS
OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
(THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE HOLY PHILIPPIAN FAST)
THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR HOLY FOREFATHERS WEEK

Sunday, December 12:	11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>Margaret Corlazzoli (35th Anniversary) by Mrs. Theresa Carr, daughter</i>
Sunday, December 19:	<i>The Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Old Testament</i> <i>The Fifth Sunday Of The Nativity Forty-Days Fast</i> 11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>John Kepich (1st Anniversary) by Mrs. Theresa Carr</i>

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

THE HOLY FOREFATHERS ARE BEING COMMEMORATED TODAY....

The Byzantine Catholic Church sets aside two Sundays in special preparation for the Holy Nativity Feast. On this second Sunday before Christmas, which is called the **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of the Old Testament**, we remember all of the righteous people of the Old Covenant who were kinsmen of the promised Messiah from the nation of Israel and who waited with persevering hope for His eventual coming. The theme for this Sunday centers about the **invitation** that God extends to His “Chosen People” to participate in the Kingdom of His Son, the Messiah—Jesus Christ. We thus recall all of the old-testament leaders of Israel who guided the Chosen People, preaching to them and foretelling the long-awaited Redeemer. These include all of the **patriarchs, judges, and kings** who served God faithfully by shepherding His people, and all of the **prophets**, including the Holy Precursor **John the Baptist**, whose task was to usher-in and identify God’s promised Deliverer. Jesus did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them by perfecting the work of all who had preceded Him and had announced His coming. All of these ancients continued to hope for that redemption which was pledged by God. This commemoration of them, therefore, should create in us a renewed expectation for the Messiah (Jesus) Who is about to be newly born for us again this year.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS....

Today on **Sunday, December 12th**, we are observing the **Feast of the Most Holy Mother of God of Guadalupe**. In December 1531, the Most Pure Virgin Mary appeared to a poor Aztec Indian convert, Juan Diego, on a hilltop near Mexico City. As proof of the apparition, fragrant roses blossomed on the cold and barren hillside, and the Godbearer impressed an icon of herself on this native man’s roughly woven cloak. From that time almost five centuries ago, the Most Holy Mother of Guadalupe has been honored as the Empress of the Americas, for she demonstrated her maternal concern for the poor and the indigenous peoples of the New World. In January 1999, Pope John Paul II proclaimed the Most Holy Virgin of Guadalupe to be the *Patroness of the Americas* and the Star of the new evangelization which he envisions for the Americas in the twenty-first century. *“O Most Holy Mother of Guadalupe, pray to God for all of us!”*

CHRISTMAS DAY DIVINE LITURGY.....

The Christmas Day Divine Liturgy will be celebrated **Saturday, December 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.** Please plan on joining our church family for this joyous celebration of Our Lord’s birth.

CHURCH ENVELOPES FOR THE NEW YEAR OF 2022.....

The new boxes of church offertory envelopes for the year 2022 are now available in the vestibule of the church. Anyone who wishes to be issued church envelopes and thus be listed as a parishioner should contact Mary Dzurichko.

PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS – THE PHILIPPIAN FAST.....

We have now come to the fourth Sunday of the **Philippian Fast**. This sacred lenten season is rapidly drawing to a close. How well have we prepared? Are we ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus at Christmas? There is still time! Throughout this week as we recall the Holy Forefathers of the Old Testament, we take example from the ways that they prepared for the Messiah. God constantly called His people to **repentance**, and this was the theme echoed by the prophets in preparing the Messiah's way. The Church reechoes this same call to repentance during the lenten season of the Holy Philippian Fast. To repent means to turn away from sin, to abandon sinful ways. Repentance means a turning around within our lives—a going in the opposite direction. It means turning away from our self-centeredness and turning toward Jesus. Repentance is not simply a ritual, something external or superficial. It's not merely an enumeration of sins! It's far deeper than that. It's a position, an attitude, a decision, a change of mind and will. It's a true renunciation, a giving-up of one's sinful nature. It's a tremendous burning desire to be changed in one's being. It is seeing the Lord Jesus' teachings, accepting them, and coming to grips with one's self. It's desperate longing for a clean heart and soul. Thus, you become a different person. You belong to the Lord, and you're ready to greet His Son Jesus when He comes at Christmas of this year of 2010. As we now travel with Mary and Joseph and approach the completion of this 100-plus-mile philippian-fast journey to the Bethlehem of our lives, let us prepare to welcome worthily the new-born Christ-Child into the cave of our minds, the manger of our souls, and the cradle of our hearts.